Lung Cancer

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1. Definition

1. Identify/define topic: Lung cancer is the most lethal type of tumor worldwide, causing up to 3 million deaths, and the leading cause of cancer deaths in the U.S.
2. History/Origin of item: The prominence of lung cancer occurrences increased throughout the 1900s with the increased air pollution from industrial gasses and dusts, asphalting of roads, increase in automobile traffic, and exposure to gas in WWI.

2. Signs/Symptoms

1. Specific examples: Coughing, shortness of breath, wheezing, coughing up blood, and hoarseness.
2. How long they should last before concern: Symptoms are not immediate, so oftentimes people will not see symptoms until after the cancer is diagnosed. However, a chronic or persistent cough that lasts more than a few weeks could be a concern.
3. Genetic, hereditary or environmental factors: Not a genetic disease, but exposure to cigarette (or secondhand) smoke, radon, or asbestos can cause lung cancer.

3. Treatment/Managing the problem

1. If treatment is available, examples and details listed: Surgery, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy.
2. \*Role of diet: None.
3. \*Role of exercise: None.
4. \*Role of medicine: None.
5. \*Role of family support given: None.

\*Lung cancer is caused by irreversible damage to the alveoli and other parts of the lungs.

1. Management of problem short-term: Management on short term lung cancer are reduction or single agent chemotherapy depending on the duration of response to front line treatment.
2. Management of problem long-term: Most cannot be cured with currently available therapeutic modalities; the appropriate application of skilled palliative care is an important part of the treatment. Surgical resection remains the mainstay of the treatment for all patients with stage 1 and 2 NSCLC( non-small cell lung cancer.)
3. Impact on the individual and family: People said when they first told people about the cancer they were shocked and scared. Some did not know how to react and seemed embarrassed. Relationships within families can change when they find out people have cancer. Sometimes, news of diagnosis helped bring the family members closer together; patients become aware of how important they were to their friends and family. But some avoid their friends and family because they don’t know what to say or do and feel awkward. Some have trouble when telling grandkids because they don’t know how they will react or feel.
4. Impact on the family: Families will probably feel many different emotions from anger to sadness; it could be a rough time. “Shock and denial are frequently the first emotional responses after learning you have cancer,” according to the American Cancer Society.
5. Statistics integrated into the data: More than 450 people die a day from lung cancer, which is over than 19 people per hour. Approximately every three minutes a person is diagnosed with lung cancer. More than 60% of people get lung cancer even if they haven’t smoked in their lifetime or haven’t been exposed to second hand smoke.

4. What I learned/3 WOW’s

1. New information learned: Up to 30% of all cancer deaths are caused by lung cancer.
2. New information learned: In 2007 (the most recent numbers available), 158,683 people in the United States died from lung cancer.
3. New information learned: About 400,000 lung cancer survivors live in the U.S., but still, fewer lung cancer patients survive than prostate and breast cancer patients.

5. Resources

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